

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 02179 091508Z
ACTION AF-10

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FOR PGMM/RC, AF ; STATE FOR AF

E.O. 11652: NA
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECY. VANCE'S TRIP

FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM LENGTHY ANALYTICAL ARTICLE IN AUGUST 8
EDITION L'UNION, LIBREVILLE DAILY:

QUOTE - THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST
ADDRESSES OBJECTIVES FOR THE MOMENT LIMITED. SADAT'S SUDDEN
HARDENING AFTER THE CONFERENCE AT LEEDS CASTLE, WHICH TOOK THE
UNITED STATES BY SUPRISE, CREATED A NEW SITUATION, OF WHICH
MR. VANCE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE ALL THE IMPLICATIONS.

THE UNITED STATES WILL SET ITS COURSE OF ACTION ONLY AFTER
MR. VANCE'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON, AND IT WILL DEPEND ON SIGNALS
RECEIVED AT JERUSALEM AND ALEXANDRIA. THE MORE AND MORE
SCATHING ATTACKS FIRED BY THE EGYPTIAN PRESS AGAINST MR. BEGIN --
WHO WAS CALLED, BARELY THREE DAYS AGO, A RACIST AND SCHIZO-
PHRENIC DICTATOR" -- DON'T LEAVE MUCH HOPE FOR A SUDDEN CHANGE
BY THE EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STATE.

MOREOVER, THE UNITED STATES
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REFUSES TO BECOME A FULL PARTNER IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AT LEAST IN
THE SENSE OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S UNDERSTANDING, THAT IS TO SAY AS A
VIRTUAL ALLY OF EGYPT WHO WOULD EXERCISE ITS MAIN PRESSURE AGAINST
ISRAEL.

UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, ROOM FOR MANOUVER IS EXTREMELY LIMITED.
IN THE ABSENCE OF A NEW GLOBAL SETTLEMENT PLAN, MR. VANCE

ENVISAGES MAKING SUGGESTIONS LIKELY TO REDUCE THE GULF BETWEEN
CAIRO AND JERUSALEM. HE ALSO MIGHT PROPOSE SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS
THROUGH AND AMERICAN SPECIAL MEDIATOR.

FINALLY, PRESIDENT CARTER, HIMSELF, MIGHT INTERVENE AND INVITE
MR. BEGIN AND MR. SADAT TO THE WHITE HOUSE. BUT FOR THE
MOMENT, SUCH A SUMMIT REMAINS PREMATURE. - END QUOTE. DAVIDSON

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Message Attributes

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